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December 5, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Connect America Fund Phase I Challenge Process, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

By this letter and the attached declaration of Cable One officer T. Mitchell Bland, Vice President, Central Division, Cable One responds to the concerns raised by several price cap carriers to Cable One's challenge to their deployment plans. Cable One demonstrated in its challenge that it already offers fixed Internet access to 237 proposed census blocks at speeds that meet or far exceed the 3 Mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream minimum.

In response to the concerns by price cap carriers that the declaration, under penalty of perjury, by Vice President, Central Division for Cable One, Inc. T. Mitchell Bland was not made by an Officer, Mr. Bland attests to that specific fact in the declaration attached hereto.

The price cap carriers also suggest that such a declaration is insufficient evidence of service to the proposed census blocks. However, the Commission explicitly stated in its May 21, 2013 Report and Order that "[i]n cases where another provider contests the price cap carrier's intention to serve, the Bureau may consider such evidence as a signed certification from an officer of the provider under penalty of perjury that it offers 3 Mbps/768 kbps Internet service to customers in that particular census block."¹

Finally, the price cap carriers raise concerns with Cable One's use of "ready to provide" when referring to some of the census blocks it challenges, claiming this is not synonymous with "already served". But "already served" also does not mean that the challenger must in fact have customers in the challenged census blocks. Rather, the Commission's orders make clear that funding should only be directed to those census blocks where no company "offers" the requisite broadband speeds.² Cable One's assertion that it is "ready to provide" broadband in some of the


¹ *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*, Report and Order, WC Docket No. 10-90, 28 FCC Rcd. 7766, 7779, ¶ 33 (2013)

² *E.g. Id.*

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challenged census blocks should be understood to mean that residents of those census blocks have access to Cable One provided broadband service, subject only to the scheduling of a truck roll, should they choose to subscribe. The goal of Connect America Fund Phase I is to bring broadband to the "18 million Americans that **lack access** to residential fixed broadband at or above the Commission's broadband speed benchmark" (emphasis added).³ It would be contrary to this goal to distribute funds where residents already have such access.

Very truly yours,



Craig A. Gilley

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Enclosure

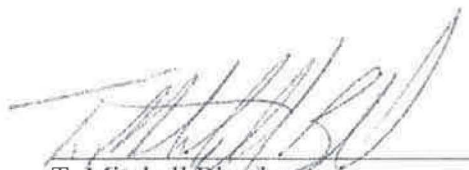
³ *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 10-90, 26 FCC Rcd. 17663, 17673, ¶ 21 (2011).

DECLARATION

I, T. Mitchell Bland, under the penalty of perjury, do hereby declare:

1. **I am an Officer** and Vice President, Central Division for Cable One, Inc.;
2. I have reviewed the Wireline Competition Bureau's list of census blocks that price cap carriers have requested funding to serve as part of the second round of Connect America Phase I published with the Bureau's August 28, 2013 Public Notice;
3. I have cross-referenced this list with Cable One's map and database of its Internet Service territory, and have identified 237 census blocks included on the Bureau's list where Cable One currently advertises and offers broadband Internet access service. The list attached as Exhibit A to Cable One's Comments in WC Docket 10-90 accurately reflects such census blocks. **In each and every one of these blocks, Cable One advertises, passes homes/addresses, and is capable of providing and/or ready to provide commercial Internet access service at a speed of up to 50 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream (up to 70 Mbps downstream to business customers);**
4. As Cable One already offers Internet access service throughout all of its Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, and Texas service locations, including within each of the 261 census blocks in those states listed on Exhibit A, at an advertised and actual speed exceeding 3 Mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream, each of these census blocks are currently served by fixed broadband service provider.

Date: November 15, 2013



T. Mitchell Bland